

# CANBERRA'S RECOVERY PLAN

## STAGE 3 CHECK POINT REPORT

Easing of COVID-19 restrictions in the ACT is taking place in stages to enable us to carefully monitor the situation in the ACT. As we ease restrictions, remaining flexible and readily able to respond to the changing circumstances of the pandemic is important.

**Canberra's Recovery Plan** has several check points along the way, so that each stage can be assessed before moving to the next. These health checks are crucial to helping keep us safe moving forward.

Below is a summary of the check point that has been undertaken to assess the move to the next stage. Following this public health risk assessment, the decision has been made to remain at Step 3.1. While we are fortunate in the ACT to be in a good position, with no active cases, we do not exist in a vacuum. The situation can change quickly, both in the ACT and interstate. There are also early indications of a small decline in COVID-19 testing numbers and compliance to the Public Health Directions.

In an effort to strike a balance between risk to public health and moving forward to support business, we have made a decision to make a minor update to Step 3.1. This will enable smaller sized venues, facilities and businesses to return to their pre-COVID capacity number, with a maximum of 25 people across the whole venue. Businesses that want to have more than 25 people in their venue must continue to apply the 'one person per four square metres of usable space' rule. The maximum number of patrons permitted in each indoor and in each outdoor space will remain at 100 people.

While there will be another public health risk assessment in two weeks, it is likely that some level of restrictions will be needed in the ACT, at least for some time. While the ACT is in a good position, we need to continue to mitigate the public health risks from COVID-19 by having appropriate control measures in place.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE MEASURE	STATUS
<b>CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES</b>	
0 cases notified in the past week	●
0 active cases	●
70 days since the last case notified	●
157 days since the last case with potential community/local transmission	●
<b>TESTING</b>	
Total number of negative test results in the ACT (as of 17 Sept 2020) - 88,646	●
Average number of tests collected per day in the past week - 404	●
<b>QUARANTINE</b>	
Total number of people in quarantine that are known to ACT Health - 310 (as of 17 Sept 2020)	●
<b>COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS</b>	
Compliance with public health directions and physical distancing requirements has slightly declined. ACT Health will continue to monitor the situation.	●
In the August Community YourSay Panel COVID-19 Survey, 90% of respondents said they 'practised physical distancing' and 83% said they 'washed their hands more regularly' either "a great deal" or "quite a bit".	●
<b>HEALTH PREPAREDNESS</b>	
The impact of COVID-19 cases on our tertiary health system has been manageable. There are no active cases in hospital.	●
<b>SUMMARY OF COVID-19 CASES FROM SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS</b>	
Over the past month, there have been 13 cases in NSW with an unknown source of exposure. However, NSW has seen a decrease in average daily numbers in the last week. A downward trend has also been observed in cases in Victoria over the last fortnight.	●
<b>LEGEND</b> ● REVIEW ● PROCEED WITH CAUTION ● ON TRACK	

### National considerations

The ACT is closely monitoring disease surveillance in other jurisdictions. While the rate of growth of new COVID-19 infections in southeast Australia (NSW, VIC and QLD) has slowed, the average number of daily reported cases remains high.

A downward trend has been observed in cases in Victoria over the last fortnight but there is ongoing community transmission in metropolitan Melbourne. There has also been locally acquired cases in NSW and Queensland, with the potential for these to impact on the ACT, given our open borders with these jurisdictions.

Additionally, we continue to manage the quarantine requirements for a significant number of people who have recently returned to the ACT from Victoria.

The ACT advises Canberrans who have recently been in Victoria, Greater Sydney and COVID-affected areas of Queensland not to visit or work in high risk settings, including hospitals, aged care facilities, and correctional facilities for 14 days after leaving these areas.

The situation unfolding is something that we will continue to see as we learn to live with COVID-19 and serves as a reminder of the ongoing risk of resurgence in cases.

This is why we must continue to monitor case movement closely and ease restrictions in a measured way.

For COVID-19 stats across all jurisdictions, visit the **Australian Government Department of Health website**. This information is updated daily.

### Restrictions may have eased but your responsibility hasn't

While the ACT is in a good position, we need to continue to mitigate the public health risks from COVID-19 by having appropriate control measures in place. This is a requirement for all Canberrans.

While our community research shows high rates of compliance by Canberrans in continuing COVID-safe behaviours, there has been a slight decline, with room for improvement.

We must continue to maintain physical distancing and practice good hygiene measures.

Testing remains the strongest form of surveillance for COVID-19 in our community, so anyone with respiratory symptoms, needs to stay at home and get tested at one of the ACT's testing sites.

As at midnight 16 September 2020

**RESTRICTIONS MAY HAVE EASED BUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY HASN'T**



Stay 1.5m apart



Maintain good hand hygiene



Stay home if you are unwell



Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19

More information at [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)

